Signing of NPT

151. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether former US President expressed his desire that India should sign NPT;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) to what extent his suggestions shall effect on India; if followed; and

(d) what shall be Indian position in view of North Korea nuclear test?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Former US President Jimmy Carter, during his recent visit to India on October 26-November 3, 2006, is reported in the media to have said that India should accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

(b) and (c) India's views on the NPT are well known and have not undergone any change.

(d) India's position on the NPT remains unchanged in the aftermath of the reported nuclear test by North Korea.

Trade through Nathula Pass

†152. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China and India are carrying out export-import through Nathula route;

(b) if so, the items being exported-imported and the amount of export-import carried out so far; and

(c) whether India is likely to benefit through this commercial route?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) The list of 29 items for export from India to China includes rice,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.